

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 /076 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7036

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GB, AO

SUBJ: DELEGATION VISITS GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 1753

1. MPLA DELEGATION HEADED BY PEDRO ALVES DEPARTED
LIBREVILLE NOVEMBER 1 AFTER BRIEF VISIT WHICH INCLUDED
CALL ON PRESIDENT BONGO. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, DELEGATION
BROUGHT PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MPLA PRESIDENT NETO, CONTENT
OF WHICH WAS NOT REVEALED.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, MEMBERS OF
DELEGATION CAUTIOUSLY AVOIDED OPENLY CONTRADICTING BONGO'S
RECENT SUGGESTION THAT ANGOLA BE DIVIDED INTO THREE
SEPARATE STATES (REFTEL) AND LAID STRESS ON DESIRE
TO AVOID "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF ANGOLAN SITUATION
DELEGATION INSISTED THAT FNLA AND UNITA WERE MERELY
PUPPETS OF OUTSIDE FORCES, THAT MPLA IS GAINING GROUND,
AND THAT THEIR MOVEMENT IS NOT "MARXIST PARTY" BUT A
BROAD FRONT DEVOTED TO NATIONAL LIBERATION AND "PEOPLE'S
POWER."

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3. COMMENT: IN VIEW BONGO'S RECENT REMARKS, HIS

RELATIVELY CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR FLEC, AND HIS CRITICISM
OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MPLA, DELEGATION CAN HARDLY HAVE
FOUND VERY FERTILE GROUND IN GABON FOR ITS POINT OF
VIEW. NEVERTHELESS, THEIR VISIT ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATES
THAT BONGO STILL WISHES TO PROJECT IMAGE OF NEUTRALITY
VIS-A-VIS ANGOLAN CONFLICT IN KEEPING WITH HIS AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
ASPIRATIONS. STEIGMAN

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